

The Leavenworth Echo



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Opinion | B1

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Snowmobile Expo Showcases local talent, sponsored UTV rider Brandon Radach



Brandon Radach poses with his fiancée in front of his UTV at Snowfest 11.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Snowfest 11, a snowmobile expo hosted by local ride group Bavarian Boondockers, went off without a hitch on Saturday, Nov. 18. Snowmobiles sprinkled the Festhalle’s surrounding parking lots. Inside, the event was packed with raffle prizes, vendors, and exhibitors. The event also showcased local talent, such as sponsored UTV rider Brandon Radach.

“It was a good energy hype,” said Matt Kensrud, Bavarian Boondockers

Founder and President. UTV’s, also known as side-by-sides, can have snow tracks in lieu of tires, can ride on winter trails. Kensrud thought Radach’s presence would not only be a good way to invite UTV riders to the club, but also a great way to show Radach’s hometown what he’s accomplished.

Radach is a sponsored UTV rider, decorated competitor, and UTV Takeover ambassador. “Everything he’s pretty much done, he’s earned it,” said Kensrud.

See **SNOWFEST** Page **A4**



Radach does a backflip off the UTV he rides to raise awareness for Dravet Syndrome.

Taylor Caldwell / Ward Media

Running Start offers college courses and AA for some high school students

By **MARLENE FARRELL**
Special to Ward Media

LEAVENWORTH —Tens of thousands of Washington high school juniors and seniors opt out of the normal high school classroom each year in order to take classes on college campuses through Running Start. The program is celebrating its 30th year, and students can take classes at any of the 34 community and technical colleges in the state or at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and Northwest Indian College.

Locally, at Wenatchee Valley College (WVC), there are currently 768 Running Start students (38 of which are from Cascade High School [CHS]), making up almost 20% of the student body. The number of Running Start students at WVC has been pretty steady, according to Jennifer Korfiatis, WVC interim public relations officer. “During the COVID years, the number grew to its all-time high of 920 students, but for the most part, it is usually around 700 to 750 students.”

The benefits of Running Start are numerous, but there can also be cons, so each student must determine if it’s a good fit for them. In the Cascade School District, senior Blue Knutson and junior Danielle Totman have both chosen the Running Start path with plans to graduate with an Associate’s degree at the same time as receiving their high school diploma.

Students at CHS can take any of a large assortment of “college in the high school” dual credit classes while staying in the high school. For example, a CHS student can take the University of Washington calculus MATH 124 as a dual credit course, which gives them math credit and five credits on a transcript from the same university.

However, Knutson is not alone in having taken quite a few of those advanced classes in his first two years of high school, so he appreciated the wider offering at WVC. He counts that as one of the prime benefits of Running Start and says of the other perks, “It’s free college credit, it’s supposed to be harder, my close friends were doing it, and I have more free time and control over my schedule.”

Totman, in her first quarter at WVC, echoed some of the benefits, saying, “I have more free time, and I feel like I’ve been getting more sleep.” Her main hesitation stemmed from a fear that she’d lose touch with some friends. But she’s stayed connected through her work on the recent school play, hanging out with friends, and involvement with the sports medicine club and track & field.

“The drive to Wenatchee is painful,” said Knutson, referring to a downside to Running Start. “Each drive costs \$20 in gas, which adds up, and it’s about 35 minutes to get to the college.” This is a problem more specific to students who live in Leavenworth, as it’s a more affordable commute for those students living closer to WVC. Knutson stays engaged with his fellow high school seniors by attending football games and soccer matches and intentionally catching up with friends he doesn’t see often.

Some of the unique classes that Knutson has taken that are only available at WVC include graphic design, calculus 3, multiple computer science classes, statistics, and economics. Totman said, “Currently, I’m in creative writing, and I’m planning on taking an acting class

See **RUNNING START** Page **B4**

Spreading happiness, one letter at a time



Kids and adults alike create Happy Letters as a way to show kindness and appreciation for people who may be going through a hard time and could use an uplifting note or picture that helps them know someone cares about them.

By **QUINN PROPST**
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CASHMERE - Happy Letters is a local nonprofit organization focused on spreading happiness and kindness to those who need it most.

Traci Pierson first began Happy Letters in 2015 at her preschool and childcare center Traci and Friends in Cashmere. She was looking for ways to teach the kids about the importance of spreading kindness and giving back.

But the seeds for Happy Letters had been planted many years before.

“I think what inspired me is my mom because she battled cancer for nine years, and in those nine years I owned a preschool, so in those nine years, we would send different letters to my mom at different times,” Pierson said. “And it just made her day.”

“We would do daily journals in our preschool class, and we would get to

see these beautiful drawings that the kids would make, and the kids were so excited to show us the drawings or give the drawings to someone,” she said.

“So that’s when I thought, okay, I’ve seen the letters in action because of my mom,” she said. “But then I’m watching these kids and seeing how excited they get about giving back to people with something that they’re so proud of making. So that’s when we came up with the idea. Let’s do Happy Letters. And we started Happy Letters, and it’s grown.”

The children made letters for veterans, people in retirement homes, and cancer patients. They also sent letters as thank yous to people in the community, such as police officers, nurses, doctors, first responders, and postal employees.

In 2021, Pierson retired but saw the importance of keeping the letters

going. So her husband helped her file the paperwork to make Happy Letters an official nonprofit.

“It’s important to me because I have seen firsthand the excitement and love that kids put into making happy letters,” Pierson said. “They know that what they’re drawing is going to make someone smile. It’s going to make someone’s day. And I just wanted to keep that going because I saw firsthand the difference it made in the kids.”

She has also seen the difference it makes for the people who receive the letters. People have emailed and called to let her know how much they mean to them.

Barb Parker and Pierson had been friends for years, and she was aware of Happy Letters but was not involved. That all changed about a year ago

See **LETTERS** Page **B2**



COURTESY OF P2X STUDIO



COURTESY OF P2X STUDIO

Traci Pierson started Happy Letters at her preschool to teach kids about kindness and ways of giving back to the community.



COURTESY OF TRACI PIERSON

Avyia Garcia displays some of her Happy Letters creations. Garcia has made a lot of Happy Letters to share with others.

Inside The Echo this Week

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

Children and Youth Program, 6:30-8 p.m., 4th-12th grade, Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, 509-548-5292.
Alpine Water District, meets at the Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue, 1 p.m. Contact Anne Mueller, 425-238-3935.
Senior Center, Lunch, noon, \$8 per meal. RSVP 509-548-6666.
Ukulele Circle, 5:30- 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get sheet music.
Cascade Medical Board, 4th Wednesday of every month (with a couple exceptions), September 27, October 25, November 15, and December 20, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday

Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, 8 a.m. Call Chamber, 509-548-5807. Everyone is invited to attend as a guest. Email Troy@leavenworth.org for meeting information. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Leavenworth Lions Club, For more info. President Steve Alford, 509-548-4505, or email leavenworthlionsclubwa@gmail.com
Peshastin Community Council meeting, 7 p.m. Peshastin Memorial Hall. (2nd Thurs.)
Caregiver Support Group, 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Cashmere. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)

Friday

Veteran Service Office, For information contact Tony Sandoval, 509-664-6801 or email: tony.sandoval@co.chelan.wa.us
Leavenworth Rotary Club, In person at Kristall's Restaurant at Noon. Call President Mahala Murphy-Martin, 206-227-1576, for more information.
Senior Center: Bingo 6 p.m. Call 509-548-6666. Facebook & website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com

Monday

Upper Valley Free Clinic, open every Monday to evaluate urgent health needs. Downstairs at Cascade Medical, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Call UVMEND, 509-548-0408 for more information.
Leavenworth Mosquito District board meeting, 7 p.m. via ZOOM link posted at https://leavenworthmosquitocontrol.org/activity-calendar.html or contact Jenny 509-548-5904 (1st and 3rd Mon.)
Cascade School board meetings, 7 p.m., Agenda can be found at https://www.cascadesd.org/Page/166. (2nd & 4th Mon.)
Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

Tuesday

Peshastin Water District, 5:30 p.m. For meeting location, contact Steve Keene, 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts Meeting Current meeting time is 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Cascade Education Foundation, Contact: CEF@cascade.org
LWSC Alpine Committee, 7 p.m., Ski Hill Lodge. Call 509-548-5477. (1st Tues.)
Leavenworth Masons, 7:30 a.m., Zarthan Lodge No. 148, Leavenworth Senior Center upstairs. www.leavenworthmasons.org. (1st Tues.)
Cascade Garden Club, 1 p.m., at a member's home or other venue. Call President Claudia, 509-662-7706. (3rd Tues.)
The Chelan County Cemetery District #2 (Peshastin) meets monthly at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)
Senior Center, Exercise, 11 a.m.-Noon. Tues & Thurs. 509-548-6666. Facebook & Website: leavenworthseniors@gmail.com
Music, call Steve, 509-548-7048. (1st and 3rd Tues.)
Greater Leavenworth Museum board meeting 5-7 p.m. Everyone is invited as a guest. Contact info@leavenworthmuseum.org for meeting information. (1st Tues.)

NCW Libraries

Libraries will continue to offer a wide variety of resources and programs online at ncwlibraries.org and its Facebook page. Go to NCWLBRARIES.ORG or 1-800-426-READ (7323) for more information, and updates.
Leavenworth Public Library. Located at 700 Hwy. 2, Call 509-548-7923 or online leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org
Open on Tues., 10-5, Wed., 11-7, Thurs., 10-7, Fri., 10-5 Sat., 10-2. Closed Sun. and Mon.
Peshastin Public Library. Located at 8396 Main St., Peshastin. Call: 509-548-7821 or peshastin@ncwlibraries.org
Open Tues., 10-1:30; and 2:30-7, Wed., 10-2, and 2:30-7, Thurs., and Fri., 1-5:30 and Sat., 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Other events

The Greater Leavenworth Museum, formerly known as the Upper Valley Museum. Now open daily 11-4. Check their Facebook page or website at <http://www.leavenworthmuseum.org> or www.leavenworthmuseum.org for updates and information.
Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, 509-548-7641. Trails and grounds are open every day to the public. Please park outside the gate. All animals must be on a leash.

Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.

Please note that if your organization changes dates, or hours please send us your updates to reporter@leavenworthecho.com or call 509-548-5286. Otherwise we are not responsible for any misinformation.

Meeting Schedules For AA, Alanon, Celebrate Recovery

AA Meetings:
 Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth AA meetings: 541-480-8946
 Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth Alanon meetings: 509-548-7939
 509-548-1627, 548-4522, 664-6469, 206-719-3379
 Sunday 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Tuesday, 7 p.m., Light in the Valley, 8455 Main Street, Peshastin
 Wednesday, 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Thursday, 1 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Friday, 7 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 222 Cottage Ave.
Alanon Meetings, Call 509-548-7939
Renewed Celebrate Recovery, Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene. 111 Ski Hill Drive. Come experience God's grace for all of life's hurts, habits and hang-ups. For more information: CelebrateRecoveryLCN@gmail.com or 509-596-1510.

Leavenworth

Leavenworth Library invites babies and toddlers for a fun read and play time

Calling all parents and their little ones! The Leavenworth Library is hosting a delightful event tailored for babies and toddlers to dive into the world of books, songs, and playful activities. This engaging session promises an hour of interactive fun and learning.

It's a fantastic opportunity for the youngest book enthusiasts to explore stories, engage in sing-alongs, and partake in exciting playtime within the welcoming environment of the library.

Parents and guardians, mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 10-11 a.m., and join in for a morning filled with laughter, learning, and bonding. Don't miss out on this wonderful chance for your little ones to embrace the joy of reading and play.

Leavenworth Friends of the Library hosts holiday celebration

The Leavenworth Friends of the Library is set to host its annual Holiday Party, bringing joy and excitement to the community on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will take place in the main area of the Leavenworth Library.

This anticipated gathering promises a delightful evening for families and kids of all ages. Attendees can look forward to a range of activities, including crafts, snacks, a photo booth, and plenty of fun-filled moments. Every family attending will receive a free book as a token of celebration, available while supplies last.

The Holiday Party, an event brought to the community by the Leavenworth Friends of the Library, aims to foster a joyous atmosphere and a love for literature during the holiday season. All are warmly invited to join in the merriment and create lasting memories.

Leavenworth Women's Exchange hosts festive Christmas party

The annual Christmas celebration hosted by the Leavenworth Women's Exchange promises an afternoon of festive cheer and camaraderie. Scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the picturesque Icicle Village Resort (505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA), the event will kick off at 11:30 a.m.

Attendees can anticipate a delectable buffet lunch priced at \$35.00 per person, accompanied by a lively gift exchange. Each participant is encouraged to bring a small gift within a \$15.00 limit to join in the exchange.

Claire Burlingame, the point of contact for reservations and information, can be reached at 548-7142. Reservations should be secured by Thursday, December 7.

The event organizers extend a warm invitation to bring along friends for an afternoon filled with delicious food, social mingling, and the much-anticipated gift exchange.

It's time for the annual Christmas bird count

Calling all birders. It's the most wonderful time of the year - it's time for the annual Leavenworth

Christmas Bird Count on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 8 a.m. The

Christmas Bird Count (or CBC) is a nationwide community science effort to count birds. Organized by the National Audubon Society, these counts have been going on for over 120 years. This year, Wenatchee River Institute is proud to take the lead in organizing the 2024 Leavenworth CBC. Volunteers will team up to cover an area 15 miles in diameter around town. There are plenty of routes to cover and lots of space for volunteer leaders or beginning birders alike to join in.

Birders of all persuasions, whether that be hikers, carriers, or at-home feeder watchers, are encouraged to participate in this amazing community science opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering, email Tucker at tjonas@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or visit our website: www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.com.

Skiing: then, now and beyond

Join the Wenatchee River Institute, A Book for all Seasons, Greater Leavenworth Museum, and the Northwest Ski Museum for a special Red Barn event as they host Lowell Skoog, author of *Written in the Snows*, and Michael 'Bird' Shaffer, for an evening of Northwest ski culture from past to present. Copies of Lowell Skoog's book will be available for purchase at the event.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, the doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a community social with beer and wine available for purchase. The presentation will start at 7 p.m.

The event is free with a donation basket at the door. This hybrid event is offered in person or on WRF's YouTube channel.

Michael Shaffer goes by 'Bird'. Among other talents, Bird is a speed flyer and an extreme skier. He embodies the unbridled joy and freedom of powder skiing and lives by the motto of "full wingspan." Raised off the grid in the Pacific NW and seen frequently in Chamonix, France, he is truly a magnetic presence in the skiing world. Michael Bird Shaffer is the authentic soul spreading the love of flight and free skiing to all.

As a skier, climber, writer, and photographer, Lowell Skoog has been a keen observer of Northwest mountaineering since the 1970s. He is the creator of the *Alpenglow Gallery* and founder of the *Northwest Mountaineering Journal*, websites that celebrate local mountain culture, and he was a key member of the team that launched the Washington State Ski and Snowboard Museum. Skoog is the chairman of the Mountaineers History and Library committee. He lives in Seattle.

Skoog shares a definitive and visually rich history of Northwest ski culture over the past century, from stirring and colorful stories of wilderness exploration to the evolution of gear and technique. He traces the development of skiing in Washington from the late 1800s to the present, covering the beginning of ski resorts and competitions, the importance of wild places in the Cascades and Olympic mountains, and the friluftsliv, or open-air living spirit, of backcountry skiing. Skoog addresses how larger social trends, including immigration, the Great Depression, war, economic growth, conservation, and the media have shaped skiing. In turn, Northwest skiers have affected their regions in ways that have transcended the sport, producing local legends like Milnor Roberts, Olga Bolstad, Hans Otto Giese, Bill Maxwell, and more. While weaving his own impressions and experiences into the larger

history, Skoog shows that skiing is far more than mere sport or recreation.

Greater Leavenworth Museum celebrates city award

With the 2023 Washington Governor's Smart Communities award recipients being announced last week, the Greater Leavenworth Museum has chosen to celebrate the City of Leavenworth being a recipient of the Judges Merit Award (recognizing communities

successes in more than one of the judged categories). Nearly 60 years after Project L.I.F.E. developed the community plan to transform our flailing town into a Bavarian village, residents can enjoy complimentary admission to the museum through the end of 2023 to learn about or refresh their memories of this town's unique history.

Residents of the Cascade School District will have free admission to the Greater Leavenworth Museum (735 Front Street, above the Nutcracker Museum) daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 31, 2023.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mike Wesley Ballew

Wesley Micheal "Mike" Ballew, passed away early in the morning on October 22, 2023 after his battle to progressive supranuclear palsy (also referred to as PSP Parkinson's). Mike left behind his daughter, Billie McGill and two beautiful granddaughters Lexie Trefry and McKenzie Trefry. He also left behind two brothers and a sister Steve Ballew, Bob Ballew and Natalie Briody. Mike enjoyed being with his granddaughters, niece and nephews during his retirement years. The children brought joy to his heart.



Mike's journey in the entertainment world included an unforgettable appearance in the 1988 movie "Jack Kelly Snakeater," where he starred alongside his longtime friend Lorenzo Lamas. Mike also played a role in "Heaven Can Wait", "Semi Tough", "Suburban Commando", "Two Minute Warning" and "North Dallas Forty".

Before his foray into acting, Mike had a career in professional football. He played as a defensive end. Al Davies signed him onto the Oakland Raiders. George Allen, the coach of the Washington Redskins, placed him with the Hagerstown Bears. While with the Eastern Football League Mike was awarded "All League Linebacker". Later the Chicago Bears signed him on. Then he played with the Southern California Sun's and the Philadelphia Bells with the World Football League. He finished his football career with the LA Rams and the LA Express teams.

Mike played various roles in the film industry, including acting and stunt work in eight movies. Mike served as a stunt double for pro wrestlers Hulk Hogan and Mark Calloway, better known

as "The Undertaker." Mike was also the Marketing Manager for the Conte Camel GTO Race Team. Before retirement, Mike managed transportation crews on film sets and ran them like a well-coordinated team.

Away from the movie set, at his home in Sunset Beach, Mike would reveal a softer side. He had a strong devotion to family and friends and enjoyed sharing stories of his upbringing in the heart of Washington state. Mike was born on July 17, 1947 in Seattle, WA. His father was a truck driver and his mother managed the family-owned restaurant. Mike attended a one-room school house in Winton, WA up until high school when the family moved to Leavenworth, WA. Mike loved his horse named Joker growing up and entered Joker in the Chelan County fair to compete in horse racing.

Mike Ballew's diverse life experiences left an indelible mark on those who knew him. He will be remembered for his love for his family, bringing laughter to those around him, and his dedication to his career. Mike's legacy lives on in the memories of those he touched throughout his remarkable journey.

Please join us to celebrate Mike's life at Sleeping Lady Resort in the Quail room on December 9th from 4-7 p.m.

Business & Service Directory

Add your business or service to this directory: 509-548-5286

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 Slidewaters Christmas PO Box 1601 Chelan, WA 98816

Michelle's Kitchen Table Strategies

By MICHELLE PRIDDY
Special to Ward Media

Four Stroke Spaghetti

Spent the morning with my son trying to learn about timing chains on a dual overhead cam... I know, right? What are these words? I'm listening as the megabytes (well more like kilobytes) in my brain fill up with anxiety because I simply don't understand what he's talking about. How do I say, 'you are speaking a language I don't understand' and still maintain my motherly superiority? I kept quiet. Next came a question as to why are engines called four stroke "Because there's four sets of pistons?" I said. I could tell by the look on his face I was wrong... I felt sheepishly

stupid; motherly superiority went out the window as I looked my son in the eye and could no longer lie by omission. Now he knew just how little I know about one of the most important things in his universe; engines.

Then a wonderful thing happened. We went to lunch and as I twirled spaghetti onto my fork I asked, "Why are engines called 'four-stroke'?" Realizing I wasn't trying to appease him; that I honestly wanted to know; he started to translate 'engine' into English for me. He didn't roll his eyes or purse his lips to imply I was stupid. He didn't harrumph, change the subject and ignore my question implying I wasn't worth teaching because,

like a dinosaur, I'm too old to even begin to understand four stroke engines. Instead, he put his fork down and took the time to illustrate in a way I could understand then he waited for me to catch on.

Using his fist and forearm he explained the up and down motion of a four-stroke engine's piston. He said, "every up or down motion of a piston is called a stroke." Holding his fist up in the air above his head he said, "Starting at the top the piston sucks in air and fuel on the first stroke heading downward," his elbow fell to his side lowering his fist, "when it reaches the bottom, that's the first stroke. Now for the second stroke," he raised his fist to his shoulder, "It compresses the air and fuel as

the piston moves upward." His fist raised once again above his head, "just past the top of the second stroke a spark is delivered to the piston and combustion happens. Combustion is an explosion. The explosion causes the third stroke, the power stroke, forcing the piston down." He pulled his elbow to his side again, lowering his fist. "The fourth and last stroke pushes the used-up air and fuel, now burned gas, out as exhaust." He once again raised his fist over his head, "then the whole process starts all over again."

"Oh," I said, my fork full of spaghetti "So that's what four-stroke means!"

He nodded with a smile and reached for a bread roll. I figure I must have done something right when my son can teach me without rolling his eyes causing me to feel dinosauric.

Notes: I like to use habanero powder for my pepper shakes but any chili pepper will do, even paprika if heat isn't called for. Chile flakes work well and simple fresh ground black pepper is delicious too. A freshly fried over easy egg laid over a single serving of this spaghetti? Let that over easy yolk mingle with the herb butter? Yum!

The Recipe

- 1 cube butter (1/4 pound) divided
 - 4 cloves raw garlic, minced
 - 4 to 8 shakes dehydrated hot pepper
 - 1/2 16 oz box or package of pasta
- Add two Tablespoons butter and the minced garlic to a small sauce pan. Bring to a simmer

over medium heat then let the butter and garlic simmer for 2 to 3 minutes to infuse the butter with garlic flavor. If the bottom of the pan starts to stick it is time to remove the pan from the burner. Add the hot pepper shakes to the melted butter, give a quick stir then add the rest of the butter. Even off the burner the pan will remain hot and it will melt the added butter. Mix well

then pour into a 1/2 pint mason jar stirring as the butter cools so the particles of garlic and pepper will be evenly distributed throughout the butter once it solidifies.

Boil the pasta; drain it, reserving 1/4 cup pasta water. Add the butter mixture to the pasta with the 1/4 cup hot water; toss like a salad. Serve with hot bread and a side of bean soup.

About the author: In 2000 Michele Priddy left the work force to become a stay-at-home mother and wife. Being a one-income family in today's society meant she had to learn to budget quickly. Food became a priority early because she wanted the children to have the best nutrition she could offer them even on a budget. She taught cooking classes at various churches in her community on "How to stretch the food dollar with simple ingredients". Michelle has put her kitchen strategies, stories and recipes in booklets, her church newsletter and in her hometown newspaper, The Goldendale Sentinel. We hope you will enjoy her strategies, stories, and recipes.

Snowfest

Continued from page A1

He races, but his favorite events to compete in are UTV Takeover's Wheeliefest (longest wheelie) and Huckfest (longest jump). UTV Takeover is a nationwide UTV events tour that hosts about 30,000 people a year. Each event is five days of UTV competitions, camping, guided rides, music, and activities. Radach has proven to be a wheelie master at the events, boasting a record 263-foot wheelie at the 2020 UTV Takeover event in Oregon.

Radach spends about ten months out of the year traveling to competitions in Utah, Oregon, and even as far as Oklahoma. Although there aren't as many opportunities in Washington, Radach still calls Leavenworth home. Radach's family has been in the area since his grandfather moved to Cashmere as a kid. Radach and his brothers grew up in Leavenworth with the mountains as their backyard. "We did a lot of camping together. My mom got me into snowboarding and skiing when I was young, so my parents definitely helped play a role in that, getting us started and snowmobiling and all that kind of stuff," said Radach. As an adult, he's tried out places to live, but nothing compares to home. "Leavenworth has so much to offer if you're somebody that enjoys the outdoors by any means,



TAYLOR CALDWELL / WARD MEDIA

Radach does a wheelie in his UTV.

whether it's hiking, boating, floating the river, motorcycles, side by side, snowmobiles, it's all right here," said Radach.

Radach has always been drawn to adrenaline sports, so when he decided to buy his first side-by-side in 2017, it came as no surprise. He entered his first competition three days later. "Yeah, [the side-by-side] was completely stock. It barely met the requirements to enter the race, actually. They let me in, and I did really well," said Radach. He was hooked. "Checkers or wreckers' is my motto. If I'm not going to win, I'm going to crash trying," said Radach.

His UTV looks a lot different now. His 2016 Polaris turbo RZR has new wheels, a beefed-up engine, and a

sweet new paint job. Some of the improvements have been thanks to large sponsors, but his local connections have also made their touch. His logo was designed by his childhood friend Spencer Piestrup of Pie Bros, a local T-shirt design company. His stickers, hoodies, and t-shirts were designed by Tina Dickson of Dickson Designs, who also grew up with Radach.

His motivations are also different from that first competition back in 2017. Radach added another sponsored side-by-side to his fleet, a 2015 Polaris naturally aspirated RZR with a message on it. "I raced that one all over the country solely to raise awareness for Dravet Syndrome," said Radach. Dravet Syndrome is a rare and severe

form of epilepsy that typically begins in early childhood. Its prolonged seizures can affect a child's development and put them at higher risk of sudden, unexpected death from epilepsy, according to the Epilepsy Foundation. It also affects the son of his close family friend. Every trophy Radach wins in the side-by-side he gives to him. "His son's the same age as my youngest, and it really kind of hits home with me," said Radach.

Radach has no plans of slowing down anytime soon. He has goals of beating his own wheelie record and the sand jump record, as well as building up his sponsorships.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or taylor@ward.media

Viewing marketing as an investment, not a cost

In business, the need for a well-crafted marketing plan cannot be overstated. As a marketing professional, I'm here to advocate not merely for implementing marketing strategies but to underline that marketing isn't an expense; it's a crucial investment in the growth and sustainability of your business. In this article, we'll explore the important role of a well-crafted marketing plan and how it serves as a foundation for sustainable growth and becomes a touchstone as you move through the year.



Ward Media Chief Operating Officer

AMY YALEY

and concerns of your community, fostering stronger connections.

3. Set Achievable Goals:

A marketing plan enables you to set clear, achievable goals. These goals should align with your overall business objectives and be measurable. Whether increasing brand awareness,

driving website traffic, or boosting sales, setting specific targets allows you to track progress and adjust strategies accordingly.

4. Set a Smart Budget:

Contrary to common belief, marketing doesn't have to be a bottomless pit for your finances. A well-structured marketing plan helps you allocate your resources efficiently. You can optimize your marketing spend by understanding and identifying effective channels for reaching your audience and prioritizing initiatives. This not only safeguards your budget but maximizes the impact of your marketing efforts.

5. Adapt to Change:

A good marketing plan is not a static document but a dynamic roadmap that can adapt to changes in your industry, market trends, and customer behavior. Regularly revisiting and updating your plan ensures that your business stays relevant and resilient in the face of challenges.

A well-thought-out marketing plan is a blueprint for success, guiding your business toward sustained growth and profitability. It's time to recognize that every dollar spent on marketing is an investment in the future of your business.

1. Define Your Business Identity:

A comprehensive marketing plan forces you to state your business's unique selling proposition and brand identity. Who are you? What sets you apart from competitors? By answering these questions, you not only gain clarity about your business but also lay the groundwork for effective communication with your target audience. This foundational step is crucial for building a brand that resonates in the hearts and minds of your customers.

2. Understand Your Audience:

One-size-fits-all marketing approaches rarely succeed, especially in small businesses serving tight-knit communities. A well-crafted marketing plan involves a deep dive into understanding your target audience. Who are your customers? What are their needs, preferences, and pain points? Armed with this knowledge, you can tailor your marketing efforts to speak directly to the desires

Kodiaks Schedule

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Dec. 1:	Cascade vs. Connell, Away at 6 p.m.
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Dec. 1:	Cascade vs. Connell, Away at 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS WRESTLING	
Nov. 30:	Cle Elum-Roslyn Jamboree, Away at 5 p.m.
BOYS WRESTLING	
Nov. 30:	Cle Elum-Roslyn Jamboree, Away at 5 p.m.
Dec. 2:	Omak Meet, Away at 10 a.m.

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103 Aplets Way • 509-782-2869
Sunday School, all ages, 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.
Bible Study, Wed., 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Bob Bauer
Find us on Facebook at Cashmere Baptist Church

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke
www.cashmerepres.org

CASHMERE COMMUNITY CHURCH
213 S. Division • 509-782-3811
In-person Service, Sunday, 11 a.m. until further notice.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana
cashmerecommunitychurch@gmail.com



Sunday Worship Service at 10 am
Lead Pastor Steve Haney
5800 Kimber Rd., Cashmere
509-295-8006
christcentercashmere.com



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
• 509-860-0736 • 401 Elberta Ave.,
Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist.
Services, 10 a.m.
Pastor Rob Gohl

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
• 509-860-0736 • 222 Cottage Ave.,
Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist.
Services, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Rob Gohl

DRYDEN

DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 509-782-2935
Sunday Worship at 11 am. • Prayer Meeting Wed. at 6 pm. Pastor Bill Clem • Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bergland

MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 509-782-2616
Worship Service, 10 a.m.,
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Pastor Mike Moore
www.midvalleybaptist.org

LEAVENWORTH

CASCADE MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
Office: 509-548-4331
11025 Chumstick Hwy.
Please join us Sunday mornings
9 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship Service

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
Leavenworth Grange Hall
621 Front St.
info@cornerstoneleavenworth.com
Sunday Worship – 10 a.m.



LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619
10 a.m. Sunday Service, Pastor Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout
Leavenworthumc.org
leavenworthumc@outlook.com

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
10170 Titus Rd. (across from middle school)
Church: 509-548-7667
Meetings: Sunday - 10 a.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
"Reconciling Works Congregation"
224 Benton Street • 509-548-7010
Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following
Eva Jensen, Pastor
https://www.flcleavenworth.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC
429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Website: www.leavenworthbaptist.com
Email: info@leavenworthbaptist.com

LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
111 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-5292
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Lead Pastor: Greg Appleby
Youth Pastor Paige Derossett
Worship Pastor-Jacob Mitchell
www.LCN.org

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
10600 Ski Hill Drive • 509-548-4345
Saturday Services • Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m. • Fred Smith • 509-860-3997



SPIRIT LIFE CENTER
210 Benton Street • 509-548-7138
Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Prayer 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Russell Esparza

MONITOR



MONITOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3799 Fairview Canyon • 509-782-2601
In-person service, Sunday, 9 a.m.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

PESHASTIN

LIGHT IN THE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH
8455 Main Street
Sunday Worship 10 a.m. • Pastor John Romine
www.lightinthevalley.org



NEW LIFE FOURSQUARE CHURCH
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Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.
Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall
Email: newlifeleavenworth@gmail.com
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www.newlifeleavenworth.com

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Opinion

Cultivating success through guidance and investment

In the journey of life, there's an invaluable asset that often goes uncelebrated yet profoundly shapes destinies - mentorship. It's the beacon that illuminates the path to growth, both personally and professionally. As we navigate through the labyrinth of our ambitions and aspirations, having a mentor serves as a compass guiding us toward success. Simultaneously, being a mentor embodies the act of investing in others, perpetuating a cycle of empowerment and growth that resonates far beyond individual achievements.



From the Publisher

TERRY WARD

nurturing talent. When we invest our time and expertise in others, we foster an ecosystem of growth where each individual's triumph becomes a testament to the power of mentorship.

Crucially, mentorship transcends boundaries - it knows no age, gender, or background. The mentor-mentee relationship thrives on diversity, where different perspectives intertwine to create a mosaic of innovation and progress. Embracing mentorship fosters inclusivity, opening doors for underrepresented voices and nurturing a culture where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Investing in others through mentorship isn't just about shaping careers; it's about sculpting futures. It's about fostering a community where the collective success is celebrated, where the achievements of one ripple into the accomplishments of many. It's about creating a legacy woven from the threads of guidance, support, and shared growth.

Let us heed the call to embrace mentorship. Let us seek guidance when needed, and let us extend our hands to guide those in search of direction. In this cycle of learning and teaching, in this exchange of wisdom and empathy, lies the essence of investing in others - a foundation upon which brighter futures are built, one mentorship at a time.

Remember, the journey to success isn't solitary; it's a collaborative endeavor where the footsteps of mentors pave the way for future leaders to follow suit. Embrace mentorship, invest in others, and witness the extraordinary transformations it brings to both mentor and mentee alike.

Mentorship, in essence, is a testament to the human spirit's boundless capacity for learning and teaching. Whether it's a seasoned professional offering insight or a trusted advisor lending an attentive ear, the presence of a mentor provides a reservoir of wisdom and support. It's a relationship rooted in trust, respect, and a shared commitment to personal and professional development.

Consider the transformative power of mentorship in the realm of entrepreneurship. A budding entrepreneur fueled by enthusiasm and ideas faces a myriad of challenges. Here, a mentor's guidance can be the difference between faltering and flourishing. A mentor, drawing from their experiences, offers not just advice but also empathy, instilling confidence and resilience in their mentee to weather the storms of uncertainty.

Conversely, being a mentor is an opportunity to pay it forward, to sow the seeds of success in someone else's journey. It's a chance to contribute to a collective tapestry of achievements by imparting knowledge, providing guidance, and



POINT OF VIEW

2024 Legislative Session Preview

Lawmakers will convene at the State Capitol on Jan. 8 for a 60-day legislative session to update budgets, adjust laws, and more

For legislators, the time of year is quickly approaching to gather in Olympia for the annual process of discussing, debating, and updating state laws. The Washington State Legislature convenes annually each



SEN. BRAD HAWKINS

January but alternates between longer sessions of 105 days when first developing the state's two-year budgets and shorter sessions of 60 days in the years it updates those budgets. For the upcoming session, the Legislature will convene on January 8 for 60-days.

The primary focus of the session will be updating the operating, transportation, and capital budgets for the 2023-2025 biennium. In addition to the three budget updates, committees will conduct hearings and the Legislature will modify various laws. This session will be busy for me as I will continue serving on

the Higher Education and Transportation committees and as the Ranking Member on the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. The "short session" is expected to move quickly. There are plenty of topics to discuss and issues to debate, including whether adjustments can be made to the recently approved Climate Commitment Act and other regulations affecting gas prices and people's increased cost of living. The usual topics of education, energy, and natural resources - among others - will certainly be a big factor as well. Here is a review of each of the budgets to be updated:

Operating Budget (\$69.8 billion for 2023-2025)

The operating budget (\$69.8 billion) funds the day-to-day operations of the state for

two years, including early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health and human services, criminal justice, natural resources, courts, and other areas. Despite the COVID pandemic and national economic uncertainty, state revenues remain somewhat positive, with more dollars flowing into the state than what was projected originally. It remains uncertain how economic factors, such as federal interest rates, gas prices, home values, and past inflation will affect state revenues over the next two and four years. Some economists have forecasted revenues to flatten over these years. I have concerns about the sustainability of the overall state budget if future revenues flatten or decline. It is my preference that the state set aside more funding in its reserve account to weather any reduced revenue

situations. More robust state reserves would help mitigate against any tax increases or spending reductions.

Transportation Budget (\$13.5 billion for 2023-2025)

The transportation budget funds the state transportation system, including the maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges, and ferries. This budget also funds the state agencies and commissions that serve our transportation system, including the Washington State Patrol, Department of Licensing,

See **HAWKINS** Page **B4**

The Whistle



The Catch-Up Whistle

By **RHONA BARON**

On Nov. 28, elections will be certified, and I'm poised to become a member of Leavenworth's city council. With the responsibility of the voter's trust, I've wondered if it's time to hang up The Whistle and focus my time serving in a new way. Or should we keep The Whistle going with the benefit of fresh insights gained from my seat in council chambers? The vote is still pending on that one.

What I do know is that, since the election, I am working daily to address the comments and questions that increasingly come my way. As always, citizen voices are crucial to me as well as being key to collaborative community solutions. As I strive to address your concerns, know that I am also working to understand my new guidelines. It's crucial to honor our political system's rules and represent them correctly to you.

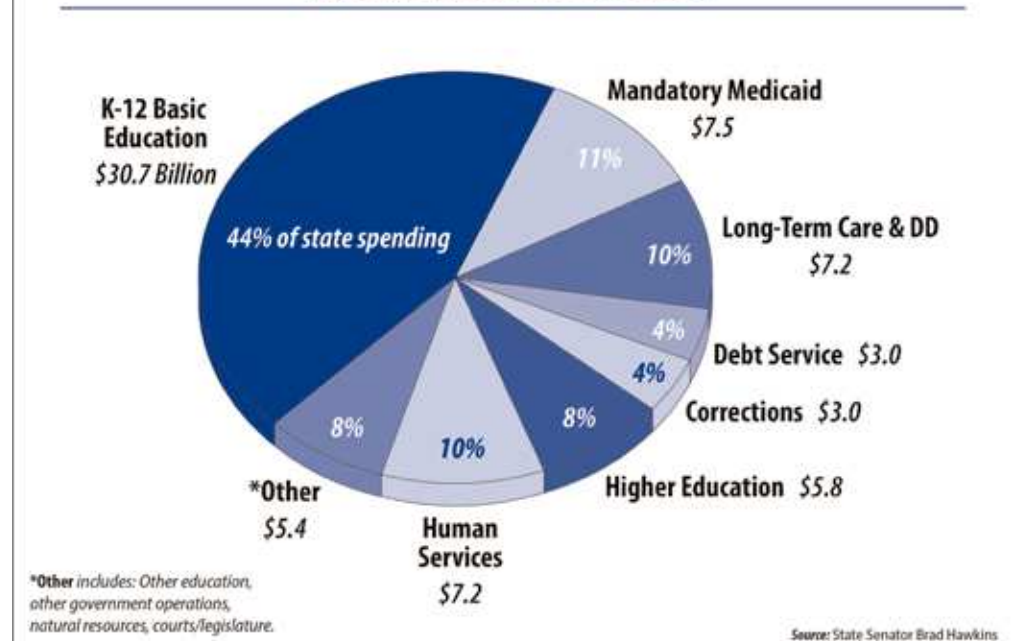
Today, let The Whistle blow as the team, and I provide catch-up on some key community issues. We begin with the Multi-Family Tax Exemption.

following a public hearing, the council voted in favor of the MFTE tool for the City of Leavenworth. Simply put, the MFTE allows a portion of the developer's taxes to be shifted to nearby citizens and businesses to compensate the developer for providing a moderate percentage of lower-priced rentals or buyable homes within a development. The shift will also cause less revenue for what's called the "junior taxing districts" like the hospital, fire department and schools.

From all we can gather from the public record, a strong majority of public opinion expressed in writing and verbally at the forum and MFTE hearings were against adoption, including a detailed letter from the local Fire Chief. I am fascinated by a representative government process that ignored significant public comment in favor of "the MFTE concept," to quote Mayor Florea. While eloquent refutation of the appropriateness of the MFTE came from Councilmembers Strand, Waters, Reister, Aurilio, and Lak, by the end of the discussion, the only ones

See **THE WHISTLE** Page **B2**

2023-25 State Operating Budget Expenditures - \$69.8 Billion



Following Your Government

Last year, over 2,300 bills were introduced during the Legislative Session but only approximately 400 were ultimately approved. Here are some helpful ways to follow legislative activities:

- **Legislative Hotline:** 1-800-562-6000
- **Television Washington:** twv.org
- **State Budgets:** fiscal.wa.gov
- **Governor's Website:** governor.wa.gov
- **State Supreme Court:** courts.wa.gov
- **Commerce:** commerce.wa.gov
- **Transportation:** wsdot.wa.gov
- **Children & Families:** dcyf.wa.gov
- **Public Schools:** ospi.k12.wa.us
- **Higher Education:** wsac.wa.gov
- **Human Services:** dshs.wa.gov
- **Veterans Affairs:** dva.wa.gov

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Have Your Say

We encourage (1) letter to the editor of 250 words or fewer from readers on subjects of local interest, and (2) "Point of View" guest opinion columns of no more than 550 words that focus on local community lifestyle issues. Letters and guest columns published become the property of The Leavenworth Echo, and it reserves the right to reject, condense or edit for clarity or when information stated as fact cannot be substantiated. Letters published in other newspapers or websites, anonymous letters, letters advocating boycotts, letters to other people, mass mailings and commercial appeals are not published. We will not publish letters that impugn the personal character of private persons or of groups of people. Include your name, street address and — for verification purposes — day and evening telephone numbers. Email to letters@ward.media or mail to **Letters, The Leavenworth Echo, 29 S. Wenatchee Ave., Suite A, Wenatchee, WA 98801**

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 52



Is it catching?

There are ways we can try to avoid catching a cold and the flu, like washing our hands and getting vaccinated.

But, there is something you can't stop yourself from catching.

What is it? It's **YAWNING!**

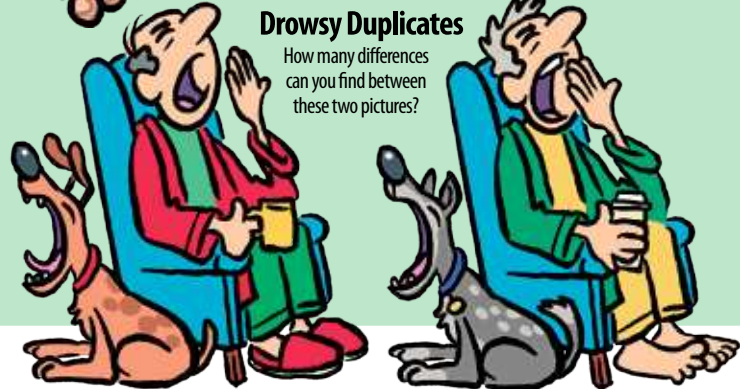
Give it a try! Start yawning and watch to see if people around you start to yawn. Even reading about yawning can sometimes cause a person to yawn. Are you starting to yawn yet?

Animals Yawn, Too!

Many animals also yawn. And some animals "catch" yawning from each other. Some people say when they yawn, their dog will often yawn, too.

Drowsy Duplicates

How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Amazing Facts About Yawns

Use the secret code to reveal these facts!

How long does the average human yawn last?

8 18 3 8 22 24 12 13 23 8

What time of year do people yawn the most?

4 18 13 7 22 9



SECRET CODE

- 26=A 13=N
- 25=B 12=O
- 24=C 11=P
- 23=D 10=Q
- 22=E 9=R
- 21=F 8=S
- 20=G 7=T
- 19=H 6=U
- 18=I 5=V
- 17=J 4=W
- 16=K 3=X
- 15=L 2=Y
- 14=M 1=Z

The longest known yawn was made by a small Pomeranian dog named Belle. How long did her yawn last?

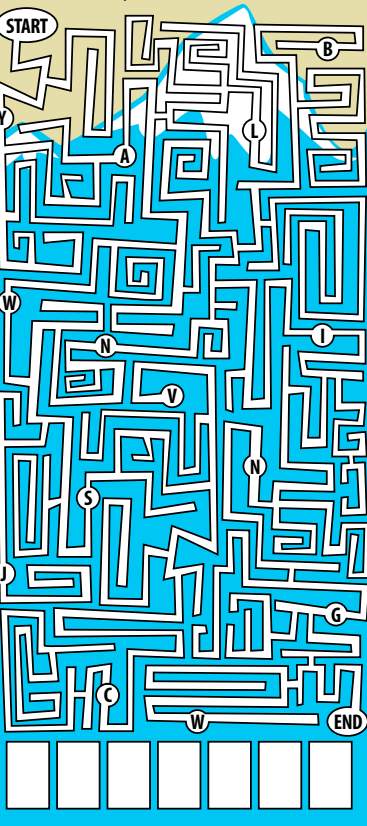
7 4 22 13 7 2 7 19 9 22 22
14 18 13 6 7 22 8

Popping Ears

If you have traveled into the mountains, or taken an airplane ride you may have noticed your ears feeling plugged up or even hurting.

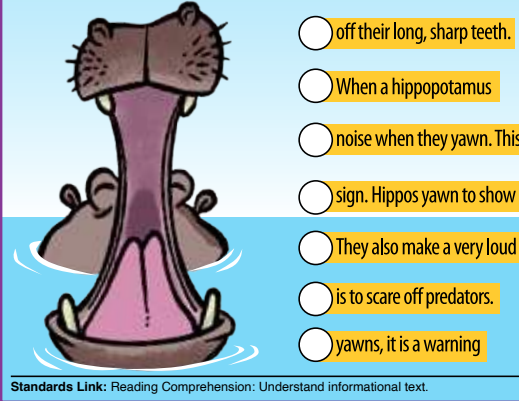
The air pressure in higher altitudes is lower than the air pressure in lower altitudes. When the pressure of the air inside your ears and outside are different, you feel a bit plugged up.

What can help balance the inside and outside pressure? The letters along the correct path reveal the answer.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Number the paragraph parts in order to reveal facts about hippopotamus yawns.



- off their long, sharp teeth.
- When a hippopotamus
- noise when they yawn. This
- sign. Hippos yawn to show
- They also make a very loud
- is to scare off predators.
- yawns, it is a warning

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand informational text.

Double Double Word Search

- AIR
- BALANCE
- COLD
- DOG
- DROWSY
- EARS
- FACTS
- FLU
- LAST
- LOUD
- PRESSURE
- WINTER
- WORDS
- YAWN
- YEAR

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Syllable Search

In a news article, circle all the one syllable words in red, two syllable words in blue, three syllable words in green and four syllable words in orange. Next, create a bar graph showing the number of one, two, three, and four syllable words in the article.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Apply syllabication rules.

Write On!

Yawn!

One day, I yawned REALLY big and ...
Finish this story.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify alliteration in text.

Extra! Extra!

Large and Loud

Large and Loud both start with the letter 'L'. When more than one word in a sentence starts with the same letter, that is called an alliteration. Look through the newspaper for words that start with the same letter. Use these words to write a new sentence.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify alliteration in text.

What is the study of yawning called?



Do giraffes yawn? So far, they've never been observed yawning by scientists.

The Whistle

Continued from page B1

voting against it were Strand, Lak, and Waters.

At least six residents let me know that they felt intimidated or angry at Florea's handling of public comment and his comments to those on the council who objected to the MFTE. I have no clear opinion until I better understand the mayor's prerogative. As an elected parliamentarian of a public hearing, he is entitled to

leadership. At the same time, choices and behavior can meet a minimum legal standard but not pass the more sensitive test of fair and respectful treatment when administered by those in power.

In terms of land use and new developments, heads up! The developer of Leavenworth Meadows, formerly the site of Meadowlark up the Chumstick, recently upped the number of units in an effort to address development costs. This development site had initially been given

a Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), meaning the project was not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement was not required.

On Nov. 21, we learned that a request for 68 additional units had been granted by the city, again with an MDNS. Over eight hundred NEW residents are now slated to live within city limits when Leavenworth Meadows is completed! To calculate population, we used

the city's number of 2.2 persons per dwelling for 368 units (up from the former 300). Will there really be no significant impacts when the city's population increases by nearly 33% in a single development? Keep in mind that no deal was made at the time of permitting for more affordable pricing. As of the publication date of this column, the community has only five days left to comment to Lilith Vespier at City Hall. Please do so.

Meanwhile, up Ski Hill Drive, the scope of the

Alpenglow project becomes clear as the former meadow is leveled to bare soil in preparation for development. The Whistle has learned that a citizen group from the Pinegrass development immediately downhill expressed distress beginning roughly two years ago about environmental and water impacts to their properties. After a lack of response from the city and council to their documented concerns, the Department of Ecology responded and visited the site

earlier this month. Issues were noted.

A Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance for Alpenglow was made by the city some months ago. We'd be remiss not to blow the whistle. Adjacent residents are already cataloging concerns in an area where water pools and flows regularly. And they have the attention of the DOE.

Thank you, citizens, for keeping us in the loop. Visit us online at LWhistle.com. Until next time, keep whistling. We hear you.

Letters

Continued from page A1

when she was diagnosed with cancer and had to go through some intense treatment involving infusions every other week.

When Parker went in for her first infusion, Pierson dropped off some Happy Letters for her, and then every infusion after that, she dropped off more letters for Parker.

"It was important for me, you know, going through cancer treatment is quite intense. And we try to keep a positive attitude through everything we're going through, and with the help of support from our family and our friends, but to me, this was kids who chose to create these happy letters," Parker said. "They were sharing their visions of happiness, offering words of support, and showing that they care for people in their community. So not only did I have my family and friends supporting me, but I had people in my community who I didn't even know supporting me."

"So being on the other side and seeing what might seem like a small act, that has such a big impact," Parker said. "That really struck a chord for me."

So when Parker was offered the opportunity to volunteer with Happy Letters, she was

eager to help with anything she could and is now a board member and treasurer of the organization.

"I mean, everybody's got something different they're going through, and I really think it helps build the community," Parker said. "And it really does to me it really brought a smile. And I think that's the goal is to bring a smile to people and to help them feel that they're valued. And I think that's what Happy Letters does. It helps people in the community feel valued."

A private school in Wenatchee was the first school to adopt Happy Letters after the creation of the official nonprofit.

"And then it just started growing from there, and that's when Cashmere schools started doing them, and now I have over eight schools participating," Pierson said. "And I'm still getting phone calls, so that's great. The more people that are making happy letters, the more happy we can get out there."

"Our goal this year is to make 3,000 Happy Letters, and I know we are going to go over our goal of 3,000 Happy Letters," Pierson said. "We sent over 700 Happy Letters to Maui. And it was pretty awesome seeing

how the communities came together to make these Happy Letters to send to Maui during the tough time that they were going through with the fires and everything."

"For Veterans Day, I'd had a goal of 800 Happy Letters to send out to veterans," Pierson said. "And I'm probably going to get close to 1,000 Happy Letters back from all the different schools that have made Happy Letters to share with the veterans."

Early this year, Abbie Gundersen met her step-daughter, who was a senior at Cashmere High School at the time, for lunch in Cashmere. She had her five-year-old daughter with her as well. She spotted coloring supplies and thought that would be a good activity to entertain her younger daughter while she was chatting with her older daughter.

When she went to grab the coloring supplies, she noticed the Happy Letters information.

"So long story short, I discovered these Happy Letters, and I absolutely loved the reasoning behind them, and I had just become involved with a local community initiative called Kindness Counts," Gundersen said. "And so I was kind of aware, looking and being more aware of kind things that are going on in

our community. Anyway, I saw these happy letters and thought these are amazing, such a simple idea, but it can really have a huge impact."

The lunches with her older daughter were a weekly thing and her younger daughter would work on Happy Letters during the lunches. She started posting the Happy Letters on Facebook to promote the organization and then Traci reached out.

The two connected through Facebook and now together look for opportunities to spread happiness through Happy Letters.

"Tracy is amazing," Gundersen said. "She's the sweetest lady, and I've just loved getting to know her and work with her, and you know, just such a simple concept really, really brightens, you know, brightens people's day."

"As a mum, I want my girls to grow up, kind of looking out for maybe the classmate at school who is sad, or the kid in the playground that's getting picked on and you know, for them to be kind and for their first, thought to be, how can I make someone happy," Gundersen said. "And I really loved how Traci was starting that at a young age. And to kind of show them let's look for

people in our communities who are having a hard time and kind of focus our efforts on them."

Gundersen said that her young girls love making Happy Letters.

"So, you know, as a mum, I'm glad that you know, they enjoy doing it," she said. "So I'm just grateful for people who create these organizations that allow my girls to be loving and kind to someone else they might not even know or meet."

Gundersen brought Pierson to a Kindness Counts meeting to talk about Happy Letters, and the group instantly embraced the idea.

Gene Sharratt, a member of Kindness Counts, which is a year-long initiative to recognize and encourage kindness in North Central Washington, first met Pierson at that meeting.

"And boy, we just liked her right away, and she introduced the whole Happy Letters to our Kindness Counts group," Sharratt said. "And we were really excited about that. We thought, boy, what a perfect fit for us because we're really about recognizing, contributing, and honoring acts of kindness. We thought, boy, that is a terrific act of kindness."

Both Sharratt and his brother are Vietnam Veterans. His brother is 100% disabled and

keeps a Happy Letter on the wall in his room so that he can see it every day. Sharratt said his brother adores the letter.

"So one simple letter, you know, two or three sentences, just perks him up every day," he said.

"He'll never meet the young person, of course, and that's not important," Sharratt said. "But what is important, he just realizes somebody does care about him out there and it means the world to him. Just an eight and a half by 11 piece of paper with 'I'm thinking about you, thanks for your service' just brightens his day."

"Traci's energy and her enthusiasm, of course, is so authentic that you can't help but get engaged in her work because, you know, it's so sincere for her," Sharratt said. "And, of course, that's why you want to support her. It's not about her, and she always says that 'It's not about me, it's about other people and spreading goodwill,' and we're just so enthusiastic at Kindness Counts to support her at every opportunity."

For more information about Happy Letters and locations visit happy-letters.com.

Quinn Propst: 509-731-3590 or quinn@ward.media

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Announcements
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Employment
Help Wanted

Okanogan School District is requesting a proposal from an independent service provider for the following service:
In person mental health care for Okanogan Alternative Schools Students. Such services to be provided at District facilities while students are present and subject to all district rules.
Contact Okanogan Outreach at 1-509-826-7612 or e-mail rojohanson@oksd.wednet.edu for contract terms and detailed scope. Anticipated rate is \$80 per hour with an estimated 10-15 hours per week on a flexible schedule.

Help Wanted



Douglas PUD has an opening for:
Journeyman Mechanic
Details at www.douglaspud.org

Real Estate
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Entiat 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment with Columbia River views for rent. Full size washer and dryer. Large view deck overlooking the Columbia River. High efficiency heating and cooling system. Stainless steel appliances. Garages are available for additional rent. \$1,687 per month 509-881-1955

Remodeled one bedroom apartment. Washer/ dryer hookup. W/S/G paid. Excellent location in Chelan. Walk to City Park. \$1,090/ month, plus deposits. No Pets. 509-682-5108.

Legals
Public Notices

Superior Court of Washington for Chelan County
In the matter of the estate of **Marie Louise Davis, Deceased.**
No. 23-4-00387-04
Notice To Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)

The persons named below have been appointed as co-administrators of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the co-administrators or their attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the co-administrators served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of this Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: November 15, 2023. JACK N. DAVIS and KATHRYN L. HENDRY, Co-Administrators Attorney for the Co-Administrators: Joseph C. Brown, Jr., WSBA# 17991 Address for Mailing or Service: J.C. Brown Law Office, PLLC 200 Aplets Way, P.O. Box 384 Cashmere, WA 98815 (509) 782-1111 Court of probate proceeding and cause number: Chelan County Superior Court, Cause Number: 23-4-00387-04 Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on November 15, 22, 29, 2023. #6665

Public Notices

IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO: Salvador Mora-Gutierrez a/k/a Salvador Mora Gutierrez, putative father of Ashley Mora Tolentino, female gender, born May 28, 2010, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and Eileen Mora-Tolentino, female gender, born May 8, 2011, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The mother of the children is Marina Tolentino-Diego.

A petition has been filed and a hearing has been scheduled to put an end to all rights you have to your children, Ashley Mora Tolentino and Eileen Mora-Tolentino. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom of Judge Patrick T. Barrett, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA on January 8, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. If you fail to attend the hearing, the hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your children, Ashley Mora Tolentino and Eileen Mora-Tolentino.

You have the right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, contact the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help: Lawyers' Referral Service of Berks County Berks County Bar Association 544 Court Street Reading, PA 19601 Telephone No. 610-375-4591 To obtain a copy of the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights prior to the hearing date listed above, or if you have any questions, please contact Berks County Children and Youth Services at: Taylor S. Davis, Esquire Jennifer K. O'Neil, Esquire Attorney for Berks County Children and Youth Services Berks County Services Center 633 Court Street, 11th Floor Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-4323

AVISO IMPORTANTE
PARA: Salvador Mora-Gutierrez a/k/a Salvador Mora Gutierrez, el padre putativo de Ashley Mora Tolentino, genero femenina, nacido el 28 de mayo 2010 en Berks County, Pennsylvania, y Eileen Mora-Tolentino, genero femenina, nacido el 8 de mayo 2011, en Berks County, Pennsylvania. La madre de las niñas es Marina Tolentino-Diego. Se ha presentado una solicitud y se ha programado una audiencia para quitarle los derechos que tiene sobre sus hijas, Ashley Mora Tolentino y Eileen Mora-Tolentino. Esa audiencia se llevará a cabo en la Sala del Tribunal del juez Patrick T. Barrett, Berks County Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia del condado de Berks), 633 Court Street, Reading, PA, el día 8 de enero 2024 a las 9:30 a.m. Si no asiste a la audiencia, esta se llevará a cabo sin su presencia y el Tribunal podrá quitarle los derechos sobre sus hijas, Ashley Mora Tolentino y Eileen Mora-Tolentino. Tiene derecho a que un abogado la represente en la audiencia. Debe entregarle este papel a su abogado de inmediato. Si no cuenta con un abogado, comuníquese con la oficina que se indica a continuación para saber dónde puede obtener asesoramiento legal: Lawyers' Referral Service of Berks County Berks County Bar Association 544 Court Street Reading, PA 19601 N.o de teléfono: 610-375-4591 Para obtener una copia de la Solicitud de cese involuntario de la patria potestad antes de la fecha de la audiencia antes mencionada, o ante cualquier consulta, comuníquese con los Servicios para Niños y Jóvenes del Condado de Berks: Taylor S. Davis, abogada Jennifer K. O'Neil, abogada Abogado del condado de Berks Children and Youth Services Berks County Services Center 633 Court Street, 11th Floor Reading, Pennsylvania 19601-4323 Published in the Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on November 29, 2023. #6779

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WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to technology.

M I R O O T N

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Monitor

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to technology. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = C)

A. 25 14 15 4 26 7 17 2
Clue: Machine that performs operations

B. 16 17 1 24 25 17
Clue: Gadget

C. 7 17 25 5
Clue: Abbreviation for electronic devices

D. 25 14 15 15 26 22 24 25 12 7 17
Clue: Exchange information or ideas

Answers: A. computer B. device C. tech D. communicate

SUDOKU

	2							
8					6			
1	6			5	8	3		
				9				
	9		4				7	
5			1					
	8			9	2			
		3				9		1
2	5			6	1	3		

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	8	3	1	9	7	6	5	2
2	1	6	8	5	4	9	3	7
5	6	7	2	3	9	1	8	4
3	9	4	6	8	1	7	2	5
8	3	9	2	4	5	6	1	7
6	7	1	8	2	3	9	5	4
1	6	4	9	7	5	8	3	2
8	3	7	1	2	4	6	5	9
9	2	5	6	8	3	4	1	7

ANSWER:



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Washington Outdoors Report

Christmas shopping for the outdoor enthusiast

By JOHN KRUSE
Special to Ward Media

It's the time of year where retailers are pulling out all the stops to get you into their doors or to their website to spend money this Christmas and there will certainly be some very good deals for outdoors gear at the big box stores like Sportsman's Warehouse, Cabela's, and Bass Pro Shops. However, you may want to consider a different sort of gift for the outdoors enthusiast in your life.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES: The big box stores may have the doorbuster deals on Black Friday but consider supporting your local retailer on Small Business Saturday and beyond. The holiday retail sales are just as important to them (maybe more so) than they are for the big guys. A few great smaller stores to consider spending your money at this holiday season include:

- Clark's All Sports in Colville
- Mauk's Fishing Stuff in Brewster

- Republic Sports Shop in Republic
- Lake Chelan Sports or Kelly's Ace Hardware in downtown Chelan
- Der Sportsman in Leavenworth
- Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee
- McCredy Company in Goldendale
- Gorge Outfitters Supply in Rufus

GIVE THE GIFT OF PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS: If you have someone in your life who hikes our forests or visits our state parks give them an annual Discover Pass and US Forest Service Recreation Pass.

An annual Discover Pass costs \$35 and allows you vehicle access and parking for the day at all of Washington's State Parks as well as lands owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources. The pass can also be used for two different vehicles. Just write down the license plate of each vehicle and remember to put it in the car or truck you are driving when you set out for

the day. The US Forest Service Recreation Pass gives you access to trailheads and other fee access sites administered by the USFS in both Oregon and Washington. The cost for this annual pass is \$30 and it can be purchased at USFS Ranger Stations as well as at many sporting goods stores.

BOOK A STAY AT A NATIONAL PARK IN WASHINGTON: Now is the time to book a hotel, cabin or campsite at a national park next summer. Washington has great lodging at two national parks. At Mount Ranier National Park, you can book a stay at the Paradise Inn, built in 1916 at an elevation of 5420 feet. The inn is open from mid-May thru early October. The prime time to come is during the summer months when the wildflowers are blooming in the meadows around the lodge. Closer to the Nisqually entrance, the National Park Inn at Longmire also offers simple but comfortable rooms as well as a nice restaurant and a sitting area where you can watch the colors of



COURTESY OF NPS

Wildflowers and Mount Rainier

the sunset on the summit of the mountain. The National Park Inn also has a nearby interpretive trail and is open all year. You can book a stay at <https://mtrainierguestservices.com/accommodations/>.

The other national park to book a stay at is Olympic National Park. Like Mount Rainier National Park, there are several campsites to choose from but there are also some very special roofed accommodations too. One of

them is Lake Quinault Lodge. Located in the southern portion of the park on Lake Quinault, this is a grand lodge built in 1926. If you get a chance dine in the Roosevelt Dining Room for a meal and take in the gigantic, old growth trees located near the lodge on interpretive trails. The lodge is open year-round and reservations can be made at www.visitlakequinault.com.

The coast in Olympic National Park is wild, remote and scenic. If you really want

to soak in the salt air stay at Kalaloch Lodge. You can rent a cabin, camp in the campground or get a room at the lodge. Whatever you do, be sure to enjoy a great meal at the lodge and walk the beautiful beaches found here.

Sol Duc Hot Springs offers not only a chance to soak in the hot springs there, but also to stay in a cabin or in the campground which also accommodates RVs. Heading to Lake Crescent, you can stay at the Lake Crescent Lodge or the Log Cabin Resort. Be sure to check out not only the deep lake, but also Marymere Falls. A short ¼ mile hike through old growth forest takes you to this waterfall with a 90-foot drop. You can find out more about booking stays at Olympic National Park at www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/lodging.htm.

Passes to our public lands and a vacation at one of our national parks. Now that's a couple of Christmas gifts to remember!

John Kruse - www.northwesternoutdoors.com and www.americaoutdoorsradio.com

Hawkins

Continued from page B1

Department of Transportation, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Transportation Improvement Board, and other entities.

The budget also funds previously approved road projects based on their construction schedules. During the 2022 session, the Legislature approved a new 16-year, \$16.9 billion "Move Ahead Washington" transportation package, primarily for preservation and maintenance of the existing system and to complete large-scale projects. Cost escalations on current transportation projects are causing concerns, so the Legislature may need to make some adjustments to the

projects and schedule.

Capital Budget (\$9.0 billion for 2023-2025)

The state capital budget funds the construction and maintenance of state buildings, public school matching grants, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets. Most sections of the capital budget include grant programs where local governments apply for funding based on specific qualifications and submission of matching funds. Other elements of the capital budget are more subjective.

Our 12th District team has been able to generate big wins for our district through this budget, including the replacement of key facilities following tragic wildfires,

the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities to improve our quality of life and economy, and enhancements to key community assets. Legislators will evaluate new requests when developing the updated capital budget. However, the updated budget will likely be impacted by the rising costs of current projects.

Other Legislative Issues

In addition to updating the three budgets, other bills will be debated and approved. These will likely include adjustments to education, energy, agriculture, law and justice, environment, childcare, human services, and healthcare laws. I anticipate the recently approved Climate Commitment Act will be debated and potentially

refined, especially given the statewide concerns about rising gas prices.

Some lawmakers are discussing a permanent reduction of vehicle registration fees and car tabs to acknowledge the impact of high gas prices on families. Anything to reduce people's financial burdens is appreciated, but I believe the state should do much more to assist individuals and families who are burdened by inflation and other increased costs. As the 2024 legislative session develops, we will hear more about what proposals are likely to be considered.

Please Keep in Touch

I hope this provides you a good preview of the upcoming legislative session. If you

have any questions about the state budgets or legislation being considered, please call our Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. To learn more about my legislative efforts on your behalf, please visit senatorbradhawkins.org or

follow me on Facebook @ SenatorBradHawkins. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator.

Brad Hawkins is the State Senator for the 12th Legislative District

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The Leavenworth Echo

Running Start

Continued from page A1

and the human anatomy and physiology series."

Certainly, some students are independent and self-motivated learners, which is essential for Running Start's success. "Students who are able to hold themselves accountable, are curious, and aren't afraid to ask for help should consider Running Start," said Totman. "Students who have to be reminded to finish work or prefer to not put effort in are probably going to have a harder time."

Knutson said students who want to graduate college with less expense and earlier are the best candidates for Running Start. "Students should stay in the high school if they are procrastinators, don't have friends doing Running Start, or if they love Cascade High School and feel no need to leave."

Running Start students need a network of support to help ensure they are following a plan that enables them to graduate with an Associate's degree if that is what they desire. Amanda Schafer, CHS counselor, serves as a student's high school point of contact. Additionally, students create a two-year plan and meet quarterly with a Running Start counselor at WVC.

"Students are required to meet with me every quarter to update credits, talk about graduation credits at the high school, grades, and have an Enrollment Verification Form signed by parents, counselors, and the student. This piece of paper allows both schools and parents to work together to support the student and create accountability," said Schafer.

"In helping students prepare for applying for Running Start, I tell them that finishing math through integrated III, two years of a language, PE credits, and any college in high school classes they can take as a tenth-grade student helps," explained Schafer. "Having those completed

allows students to transition smoothly into Running Start."

It should be noted that while Running Start tuition is free, there are some associated fees beyond transportation, including registration, technology, recreation center, parking pass, and books. However, students on free or reduced lunch can qualify for financial assistance. Yet the cost of college credit is a small fraction of what traditional college students would pay.

"When students come to me [with thoughts about enrolling in Running Start], I always have them make a list of pros and cons of both and guide them to work with their parents to make a decision based on what is best for them," said Schafer.

In terms of funding, the Washington Community and Technical Colleges' website states: "Running Start does not have its own appropriation; the money follows the student. The student's basic education funds first go to the school district, which then divides it between the high school and college depending on the student's course load at each institution."

Additionally, Brenda Grabski, CSD business and finance director, explained, "A recent state update now ensures that funding is at 1.4 FTE (full-time equivalent), and the local college works with the local district to ensure that we do not claim over the 1.4 FTE."

CHS has ramped up dual credit class offerings with 65 credits—considering both college in high school and career and technical education courses—a large uptick over the last decade. It's a win/win for students and the high school because students get the rigorous and/or applied courses they desire, and the school district keeps a larger student body on campus and the funding tied to each student. However, Running Start will continue to be the preferred option for some students like Knutson and Totman.

Help explore our region's energy future!

CLEAN ENERGY EXPO

Join us to explore energy technologies that can enhance our clean energy future and build on our region's hydropower resources.

- | | | |
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Thursday
Dec. 14

2 p.m.
to
6 p.m.

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